the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion. The opinion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was to be sought on whether the States of Rajasthan & Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these hydel schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State.

However, subsequently in the discussions held between the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 29-30 July, 1992 and 6th August, 1992, a consensus was reached not to refer the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It was also decided that the States would come to a reasonable agreement through mutual consultations. In order to resolve the issue amicably, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place. However, no consensus has emerged so far due to the divergent views of the stakeholder States. Meanwhile, the State of Punjab has enacted the 'Punjab Termination of Agreements Act 2004', terminating and discharging the Government of Punjab from its obligations under the agreement between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan dated 31.12.1981 on reallocation of waters and under all other agreements relating to waters of Ravi-Beas. Government of India has made a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court inter alia whether the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 and the provisions thereof are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

National electricity fund

1028. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to create a National Electricity Fund to support the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the fund is likely to be made available to the SEBs;

(c) whether Government intends to initiate some other steps to strengthen the cash-strapped SEBs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has intimated that the Eleventh Plan document, approved by the National Development Council, has *inter-alia* recommended the setting up of a National Electricity Fund for supportive measures to bring about major improvement in the distribution system. It has been decided that Planning Commission will explore the option of establishing a National Electricity Fund to provide soft loans to States to improve their disribution infrastructure.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to introduce a restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the 11th Plan with a focus on establishing base line data in respect of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, sanctioning projects for improvement of distribution network and incentivising utilities which achieve AT&C loss reduction.

Power cuts

1029. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of power cuts in various States in urban and rural areas separately, during October-December, 2007; and